

Message Text

SECRET

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 015129 TOSEC 010069

NODIS

FOL REPEAT OF LAGOS 0798 TO SECSTATE JAN 21

QTE:

S E C R E T LAGOS 0798

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, AO, US, OAU, SU, TZ, GM, ET, SO

SUBJECT: ANGOLA: CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH CHIEFS-OF-STATE

REF: STATE 12770

1. IT IS TOO LATE FOR ANY PRESENTATION ALONG REFTTEL LINES TO BE MADE AT HIGH LEVEL IN LAGOS WITHOUT PROVOKING INCREASED ANTAGONISM AGAINST US POLICY AND US STYLE. FMG POLICY ON ANGOLA MAY HAVE BEEN ERRATIC SIX WEEKS AGO, BUT THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT THE DIRECTION IT IS NOW TAKING. FMG REACTION TO FORD LETTER, MEA REFUSAL RECEIVED MY PROTEST EXCEPT ON TELEPHONE, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS AT US INSTALLATIONS, MUHAMMED'S SPEECH AT ADDIS SUMMIT, AMBASSADOR SANU'S TELEVISION INTERVIEW, OBASANJO'S SPEECH THIS WEEKEND IN IBADAN, AND REITERATION OF FMG POLICY BY GARBA LAST NIGHT AT DIPLOMATIC CORPS DINNER-

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ALL POINT TO FIRM AND COMMITTED FMG POLICY LINE FOR FORESEE-

ABLE FUTURE. IN HAVE ACCORDINGLY DECIDED AGAINST MAKING
DEMARCHE SUGGESTED IN REFTEL.

2. IN HAD NONETHELESS SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES LAST NIGHT TO
TALK ABOUT THE ANGOLA PROBLEM WITH MEA OFFICIALS, INCLUDING GARGA,
SANUSI (PERMSEC), UCHUNO (AMERICAS DIRECTOR), SAGAY (AMB. DESIGNATE
TO GHANA), MUSA BELLO (NEWLY APPOINTED COUNSLUAR DIRECTOR), AND
OJOHEMON (INFORMATION DIRECTOR). EXCHANGES WITH GARBA AND SANUSI
WERE BRIEF AND ALONG LINES OF "WE AGREE TO DISAGREE, WE UNDER-
SATND EACH OTHER, AND NO HARD FEELINGS."

I RESTATED US POLICY TO UCHUNO AND SAGAY, SUGGESTING THAT MEA
MIGHT BE INTERESTED TO NOTE MODIFICATION OF OUR STANCE ON TIMING
OF FOREIGN WITHDRAWALS (PARAGRAPH G OF REFTEL). THEIR RESPONSE
WAS UNENTHUSIASTIC. THEY SAID THEY DETECTED NO SIGNIFICANT
MODIFICATION OF US POSITION, WHICH THEY INSISTED REMAINED "UNAC-
CEPTABLE." THEY NOTED THAT "YOU ARE STILL SAYING YOU ARE
MERELY WILLING TO ENCOURAGE SOUTH AFRICANS TO LEAVE AND YOU
STILL TIE YOUR WILLINGNESS TO WITHDRAWAL OF OTHERS WHO WERE
INVITED THERE, WHEREAS OUR POSITION FOR WEEKS HAS BEEN THAT
YOU SHOULD HAVE ALREADY URGED THE SOUTH AFRICANS TO GET OUT,
AND WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS." SAGAY SAID "IF SOUTH AFRICA AT
THE TIME OF THE ADDIS SUMMIT HAD BEEN ABLE TO SHOW THAT IT HAD
WITHDRAWN ONLY FIVE SOLDIERS, THE FMG POSITION AND THE OUTCOME
OF THE SUMMIT MEETING WOULD HAVE BEEN RADICALLY DIFFERENT.
THIS IS WHERE THE US LET AFRICA DOWN. ONLY THE US COULD HAVE
CONVINCED SOUTH AFRICA TO DO THIS. INSTEAD, YOUR ARM-TWISTING
FORTIFIED SOUTH AFRICAN DETERMINATION TO STAND FIRM. WHY DIDN'T
YOUR STATE DEPARTMENT GET THE MESSAGE?"

3. DO WE HAVE TO STAY IN THE NODIS CHANNEL FOR THIS TRAFFIC?

4. GARBA'S SPEECH TO ASSEMBLED CHIEFS OF MISSION FOCUSSED AS
ANTICIPATED ON FMG POLICY ON ANGOLA AND ON STYLE OF FMG'S NEW
APPROACH TO FOREIGN AFFAURS (IME. STAND UP AND BE COUNTED).
TONE WAS STRAIGHTFORWARD AND STATESMANLIKE, CRITICIZING NOBODY
BY NAME EXCEPT SOUTH AFRICA. DETAILS ON SPEECH BY SEPTTEL.

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